

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF CHAIRPERSONS
JULY 16, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bates, Fafard, Fitzgerald, Martin, Munn, Pritchard, Rafferty
Staff: Murphy, Strother, Silsby

Acting Chairperson Pritchard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 16, 2012

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 16, 2012

Motion made by Bates, seconded by Rafferty, so voted unanimously.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Economic Development Program – Website Upgrade

Strother gave a presentation and overview of the new EDC Webpage Design.

2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects and Program – Update

Staff distributed information about the Energy Management Support Grant. Details were given about the lighting projects and the four (4) stages of the scope of services in the contract. Specifics were provided about the action plan and implementing energy efficiency measures. The plan will also include looking at alternative renewable energy sources. More information will be forthcoming as the process continues.

Discussion ensued about night lighting at the Annex. It was noted that tracking the savings from using energy efficient products will be very beneficial as we move forward. Staff explained the benefits that the new lights at the Groton Library have produced. An inquiry was made about energy efficiency measures being used in the City of Groton.

3. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and Municipal Coastal Program

Staff distributed information and noted that the Steering Committee is in place. He explained the key elements that are being focused on, some of which include an energy and sustainability component. This component will tie environmental issues to land use issues. The Municipal Coastal Program will also be updated during the process. The firm of Milone & MacBroom, a professional consulting firm headquartered in Cheshire, Connecticut, has been selected. The kick-off meeting for the Planning Commission and Steering Committee will be held on August 16, 2012. A listing of the Steering Committee is available in the Planning Department, and the Director of Planning is available if questions arise.

4. Spicer Property Open Space Grant – Update

Staff stated that DEEP requirements have been satisfied. Details were given about its location, the boundary lines and survey. A greenway will be established. The Town will be

receiving \$650,000 from DEEP. The grant money, as well as funding appropriated from the RTM, will be used.

Staff spoke about the Thomas Road Project and the net savings that will be realized due to not having to pay for an easement. DEEP is requiring a hydraulic assessment, which is costly. He noted that \$1.3M is still reserved for this project.

Staff stated that the Army Corp of Engineers, who own an area on the South side of Thomas Road, wants the Town to remove the Phragmites and get an easement to the south.

Relative to an inquiry about an education facility in the area; Staff stated that flood issues have affected the possibility of schools in that location.

5. Changes to the Connecticut Coastal Management Act

Staff reviewed the project of integrating sea level and storm surge issues. Other specifics were given about the Coastal Management Act. Handouts were distributed giving a synopsis of the changes that have occurred. He noted that shoreline erosion has been a problem, which is being included in the planning process. A key focus will be on managing the program; monitoring will be important as well. Bates expressed his concerns about changes being made to the flood lines. It was noted that some of the changes will be included in local zoning regulations. Staff stated that changes go into effect in October 2012. Staff explained that FEMA is making additional changes to the coastal hazard map in 2013. He will talk to Bates about these upcoming changes. Fafard felt it would be important to inform financial institutions of FEMA changes.

Staff gave an update on the streetscape project, which is nearing completion. On 7/23/2012, CL&P will be removing their wires. Specifics were given about the temporary free parking initiative, paving, curbing, and landscaping. Discussion followed about parking in downtown Mystic. An update was given about the Central Hall building. An overview of Phase 2 of the Streetscape Project was given by Staff. He noted that \$1.3M in funding has been committed by CONNDOT to be used for this project. Construction is expected to begin in the spring 2013.

6. Identification of Topics for Discussion

Rafferty inquired about solar panels near Flanders Road. Staff will contract the Public Works Director for information and report back.

V. OLD BUSINESS - None

VI. REPORT OF CHAIRPERSONS - None

VII. REPORT OF STAFF - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to Adjourn was made by Bates, seconded by Martin, so voted unanimously at 7:02 p.m.